

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/034,830

Examiner

Sudhanshu C. Pathak

Applicant(s)

KUNIKATA, NORIKAZU

Art Unit

2634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 1st, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-6, 8-16 and re-numbered as claims 1-to14 respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-16 are pending in the application.
2. Claims 2 & 7 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-16 and re-numbered as claims 1-to14 respectively are allowed.
4. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-16 and re-numbered as claims 1-to14 respectively are allowable over the prior art of record because the cited references do not contain the specified limitation of a signal path selector for selectively providing a desired electric signal path or paths between a plurality of input means such as input terminals and a plurality of output means such as output terminals, comprising:
(a) a plurality of input means; (b) a plurality of output means; (c) input select means capable of manual actuation for selecting any of the input means for creation of a signal path to any selected output means; (d) output select means capable of manual actuation for selecting any of the output means for creation of a signal path from any selected input means; (e) control means responsive to the actuation of the input select means and the output select means for creating the desired signal path between any selected input means and any selected output means to the exclusion of any preexisting signal path between the input means and the output means that might interfere with the creation of the desired signal path, the control means comprising: (1) means for storing data indicative of whether or not the individual input means and the individual output means are selected by the input select means and the output select means at a current

sampling moment; (2) means for storing data indicative of whether or not the individual input means and the individual output means were selected by the input select means and the output select means at a previous sampling moment; and (3) means for comparing at each sampling moment, the data stored at the current and the previous sampling moments in order to determine whether any of the input means and any of the output means are selected for creation of a signal path therebetween.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sudhanshu C. Pathak whose telephone number is (571)-272-3038. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9am-6pm.
- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Chin can be reached on (571)-272-3056
 - The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sudhanshu C. Pathak



STEPHEN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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